

Norwich Building Operations for the Past Year Amount To \$1,525,000.

Greatest Boom in Years Affecting Business Houses, Banks and Manufactories—Handsome and Costly Structures Succeed Old Time and Wooden Buildings—Prospects for 1910 are Most Promising.

Building operations have been started during 1909 in Norwich which will aggregate a million and a half in outlay before they are completed. Some magnificent buildings have been completed, others are approaching the finishing stage, while others are well under way. Some are planned and will be begun in the spring, so that while the past year has been one of unusual activity in the building line there are great prospects for the present year. While a number of the changes and improvements were occasioned by the Shannon building fire in February, yet many of them had been contemplated and the opportunity was then afforded for carrying them out. The total building amounted to \$1,525,000.

The contractors predict a good business for 1910, as a number of large jobs are already being started. At the State hospital there will be four new buildings erected, which will cost over \$100,000.

During 1909 there were 74 permits issued by Fire Marshal Howard L. Stanton for new buildings, while there were 26 permits for alterations. In the second, 17 for new buildings, and 19 for alterations were issued. The third quarter showed 13 new buildings and four alterations, while in the last quarter permits for seven new buildings have been granted.

The construction work is far above the average year and is distributed between mercantile houses, mills, factories and public institutions. The building contractors have had all they could attend to, giving employment to many additional hands throughout the year.

Mills and Factories.

One of the largest additions to mills is the monstrous weave shed for the Ponemah company at Fairville, which has been closed in and is being finished. This is 70x280 and will contain 8,000 looms. Other additions are to follow at this mill through this year. It is already one of the largest cotton mills in the country.

At the J. B. Martin velvet mill two large additions are being made for the accommodation of the equipment necessary to run out their product. The larger one is 31x57, and the smaller 12x45.

A five-story addition and an extra story has been placed on the Franklin street wing of the Hopskin & Allen Arms company's plant and on the site of the Page Boiler company's burned building a new industrial building, occupied by the New England Silk Spinning company, has been erected and is in full use. It is two stories with basement.

At the Falls mill an auxiliary electric power station has been built and at the Union paper mill the burned mill No. 1 has been replaced by a handsome new brick structure, which is in use. The John T. Young Boiler company has erected its machine shop on land granted by the city and started the building of another shop for its work on Central wharf.

Stores and Office Buildings.

With his usual progressive spirit, J. B. Shannon leads in the erection of new store and office buildings, having under construction the Shannon building, which was burned in February, 1908, the new five-story building occupying the site of the old, but absolutely fireproof throughout, being of reinforced concrete construction. This will be ready for occupancy early in the year. Adding this on the east a four-story annex is being constructed of similar design, and, like the big one, will be for stores and offices.

Mr. Shannon also has under way a new five-story fireproof hotel building, corner of Water and Market streets, three stories of which are up. This replaces the old Advertiser building and will make a great improvement at that corner, in line with what he had been doing with buildings in the heart of the business district.

The Plant-Cadden company, for the accommodation of their fast increasing business, has a new five-story fireproof building in Main street, of attractive architectural design and built out for the best handling of their business. It is a credit to the street and city as well as the firm.

Daniel T. Shea has erected in Main street a four-story brick building extending back from the sidewalk line and including his former residence. This will be used for stores and flats and is another bit of evidence that business is trending eastward.

L. L. Chapman, by changing over his fifteen building in Broad street, made it one of the big office buildings of the city, while alterations in the buildings leased by Samuels Bros. have made extensive improvements.

Public Buildings.

The first of the public buildings improvements was the addition to the courthouse here, a joint job by the city, town and county, which adds a new courtroom, bar library and a large addition to the town hall.

A magnificent new building for the Norwich Free Academy is closed in, but will require some time to finish. It is 16x100, three stories high, of red brick, and accommodations have been arranged for 200 pupils.

At the Norwich State hospital, the work of completing the wards D was finished during the year and plans for still further additions are now being started. Two new ward buildings, a laboratory and the station are to be erected this year for the accommodation of the patients at the institution, now numbered 525.

Bank Buildings.

The Thames National bank is doubling its former size in its new banking house in Shetucket street, having bought the Chase bank building of the bank and they are being replaced by a handsome structure exclusively for their own use. It will be arranged for the expeditious handling of the business, being well lighted and equipped. It is of the height of a three-story building with stone front. The Chase Savings bank is occupying the Universalist church property, corner of Main and Oak streets, has secured an advantageous location for their new structure, a granite banking house covering the entire triangular plot and running back on each side about 180 feet. This will likewise be thoroughly modern, conveniently arranged for the despatch of business. There will be elaborate furnishings and in its commanding position it will prove a monument to the savings bank.

The First National bank is having plans made for a new front for their three-story building in Shetucket street, which improvement will make a handsome bank row which should excite the envy of most any city.

Miscellaneous Buildings.

Throughout the town there have been thousands of dollars' worth of building including alterations. A number of new residences have been built in various sections. At Ocean a new schoolhouse has been started and will be completed this year.

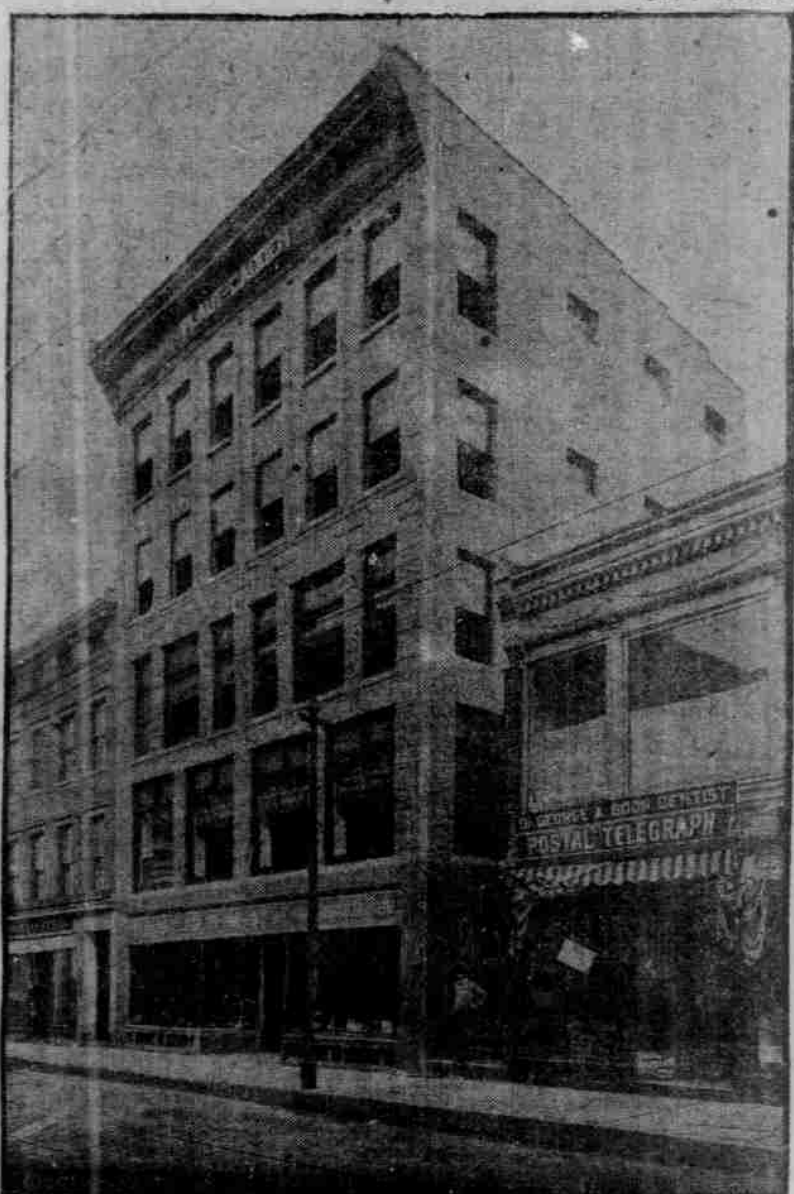
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CITY HALL ADDITION.



SHANNON BUILDING.



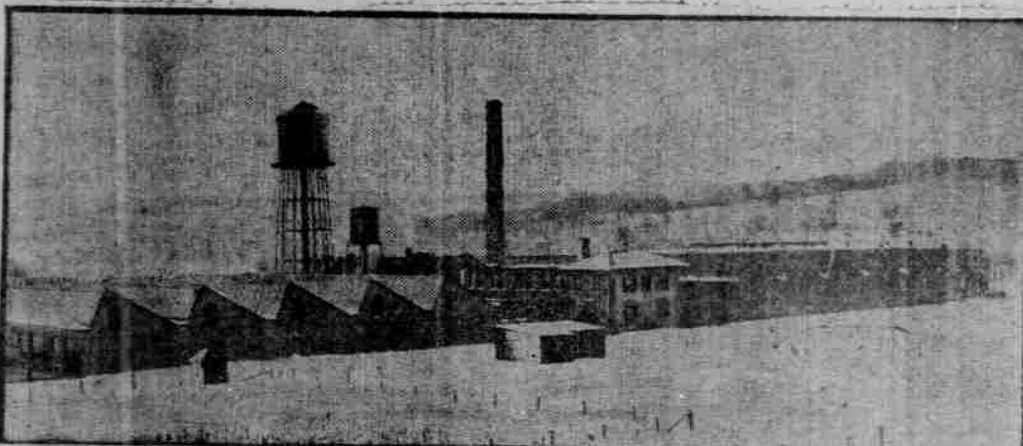
PLAUT-CADDEN BUILDING.



NORWICH FREE ACADEMY BUILDING.



AUDITORIUM HOTEL.



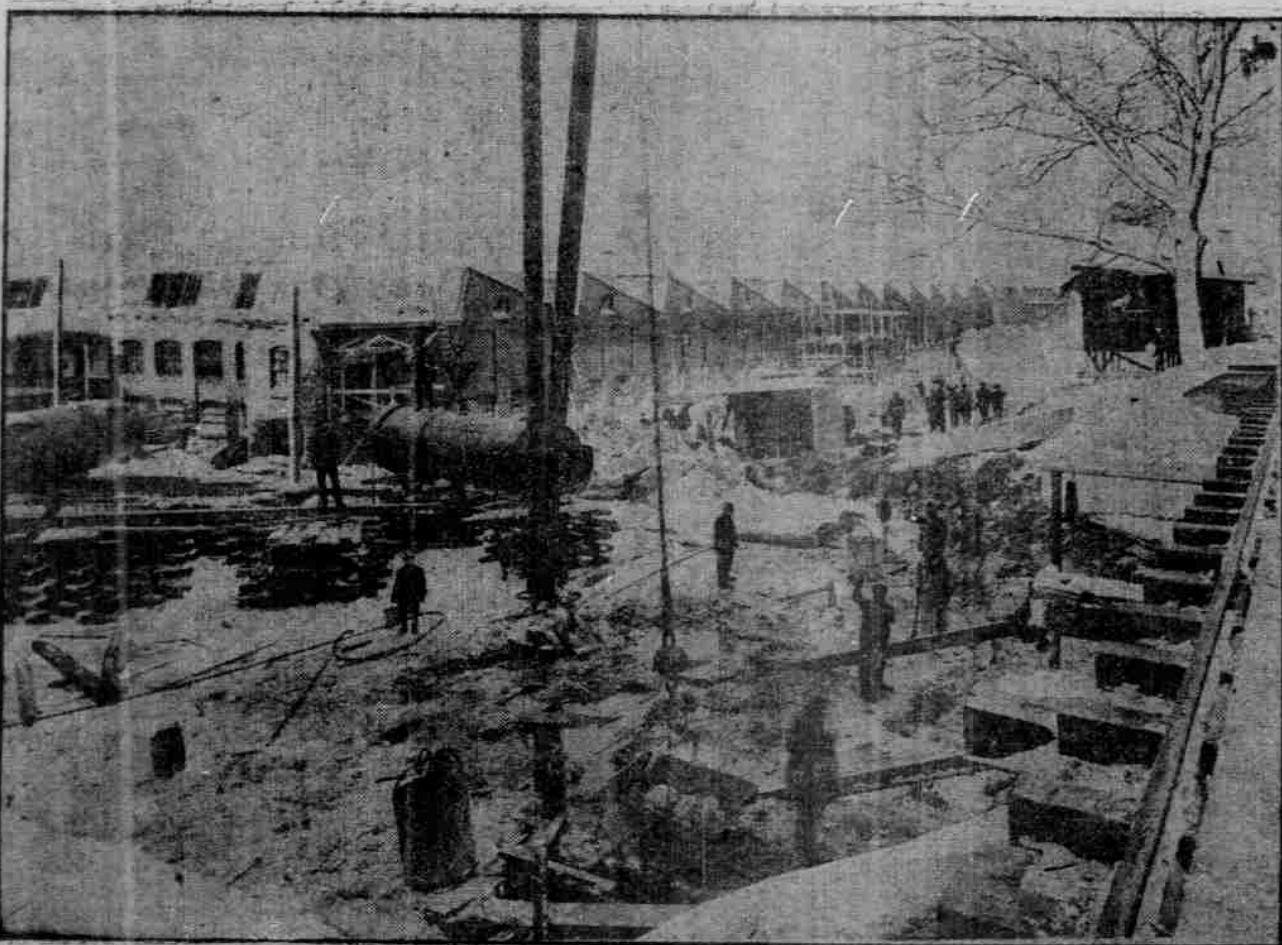
J. B. MARTIN VELVET MILL.



THAMES NATIONAL BANK.



FRANKLIN STREET INDUSTRIAL BUILDING.



PONEMAH WEAVE SHED.



ST. MARY'S PARISH RECTORY.